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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft case

I find it hard to believe that as a punishment, Microsoft is going to be permitted to put their products into schools so that our children can be brainwashed into believing that the Microsoft platform is the only one to use on a computer. That is supposed to be a punishment for being a monopoly? What other possible reason could the company have for suggesting such a plan?

My understanding is that Bill Gates purchased \$250 million worth of stock in Apple computer a few years ago. He did give up his voting rights for 5 years so the article stated. Has anyone considered the ramifications of this purchase when he is able to vote? What if Microsoft decides to port their operating system to the Apple systems and no longer support the Intel platform? This would force millions of users to buy new hardware as there are not many competitors that have survived Microsoft's strong-arm tactics. Is this where things are going? Would it be in the best interest of my organization to start purchasing Apple computers now? Can you image what this would do to Intel? What about Dell, Compaq, IBM and other competitors?

I currently am an IT person and I run approximately 10 Windows servers. On one of these servers, I installed a DEMO version of a program called ZoneAlarm by Zone Labs. This is a small firewall program. During configuration, I find that my server is sending information to Microsoft. Why would they want information about my server? What are they doing with this information? Why is this not documented? Why is it legal for a company to write software that will send information back to the manufacturer without the permission of the owner of the product? What gives Microsoft the right to have my server talk to their server without my permission? I felt truly violated upon learning this. I don't want my configuration information or any other information from my servers to be bantered around at Microsoft. This is equal to the telephone company listening in on my phone calls and making notes. This cannot possibly be legal.

Whoever owns the information, is the one with the power. Continuing to let Microsoft go unchecked is a very bad thing and will surely come to be a severe problem for the United States. Microsoft is on a power trip where business ethics are non-existent.

I hope that you are willing to stand up to such a power and make the company follow the ethical business practices that the rest of the United States is forced to follow. I would hope to see the government take this company and give them a good shake while it is still possible to do so. Computers are a very powerful tool in the world today.

Having a company with little or no business ethics (not to mention moral ethics) controlling this industry is just a disaster waiting to happen.

Thank you for reading.